

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 SCA-01 DHA-02 /019 W
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FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1006
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 0536

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, MX
SUBJ: W/W ASSAULTS ON INTERNATIONAL HIGHWAY

REF: (A) MAZATLAN 0462 (B) MAZATLAN 0525

1. ON DECEMBER 19 ARTHUR J. LOPEZ AND HIS FAMILY, TRAVELING IN 1977 CHEVROLET CAPRICE, WERE ASSAULTED ON THE INTERNATIONAL HIGHWAY NEAR SAN IGNACIO 50 KILOMETERS NORTH OF MAZATLAN.

2. ACCORDING TO MR. LOPEZ, ASSAULT OCCURRED AT 8:00 A.M. WHEN THREE YOUTHS BLOCKED THEIR PATH WITH A 1976 GREEN AND WHITE FORD LTD. THE THREE MEN IN THEIR EARLY TWENTIES WERE ARMED WITH PISTOLS AND FORCED MR. LOPEZ, HIS WIFE AND THEIR TWO CHILDREN TO GET OUT OF THEIR VEHICLE. THE THREE THEN DROVE OFF TAKING ALL OF THE FAMILY'S POSSESSIONS AND LEAVING THEM STRANDED ON THE HIGHWAY. FORTUNATELY, THE THREE NEGLECTED TO TAKE MR. LOPEZ'S WALLET.

3. GREEN AND WHITE FORD LTD WITH SMASHED FRONT WAS LATER FOUND ABANDONED AND LOPEZ IDENTIFIED VEHICLE AT MAZATLAN POLICE STATION AS THE ONE USED BY THE THREE MEN.

4. NOTICE OF ASSAULT ON LOPEZ FAMILY APPEARED IN TODAY'S ISSUE OF MAZATLAN PAPER, ALONG WITH STORY OF SECOND ATTEMPTED ASSAULT ON ANOTHER ALLEGED U.S. CITIZEN, ONE IGNACIO FLORES.
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THE ARTICLE SAID THAT MR. FLORES WAS ASSAULTED ON DECEMBER 19 BY SAME THREE MEN WHO ROBBED THE LOPEZ FAMILY BUT THAT THE ROBBERY WAS THWARTED WHEN ANOTHER CAR APPROACHED AND ROBBERS FLED. MR. FLORES HAS NOT CONTACTED THE CONSULATE CONCERNING THE INCIDENT.

5. JAMES C. MAISON (REFTEL B) CONTACTED CONSULATE DEC. 15 TO REPORT THAT HIS VEHICLE HAD BEEN RECOVERED BY MAN WHO CLAIMED HE HAD FOUND IT ABANDONED ALONG THE ROAD. THE CAR WAS SLIGHTLY DAMAGED AND ALL OF THE MAISON'S POSSESSIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN.
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